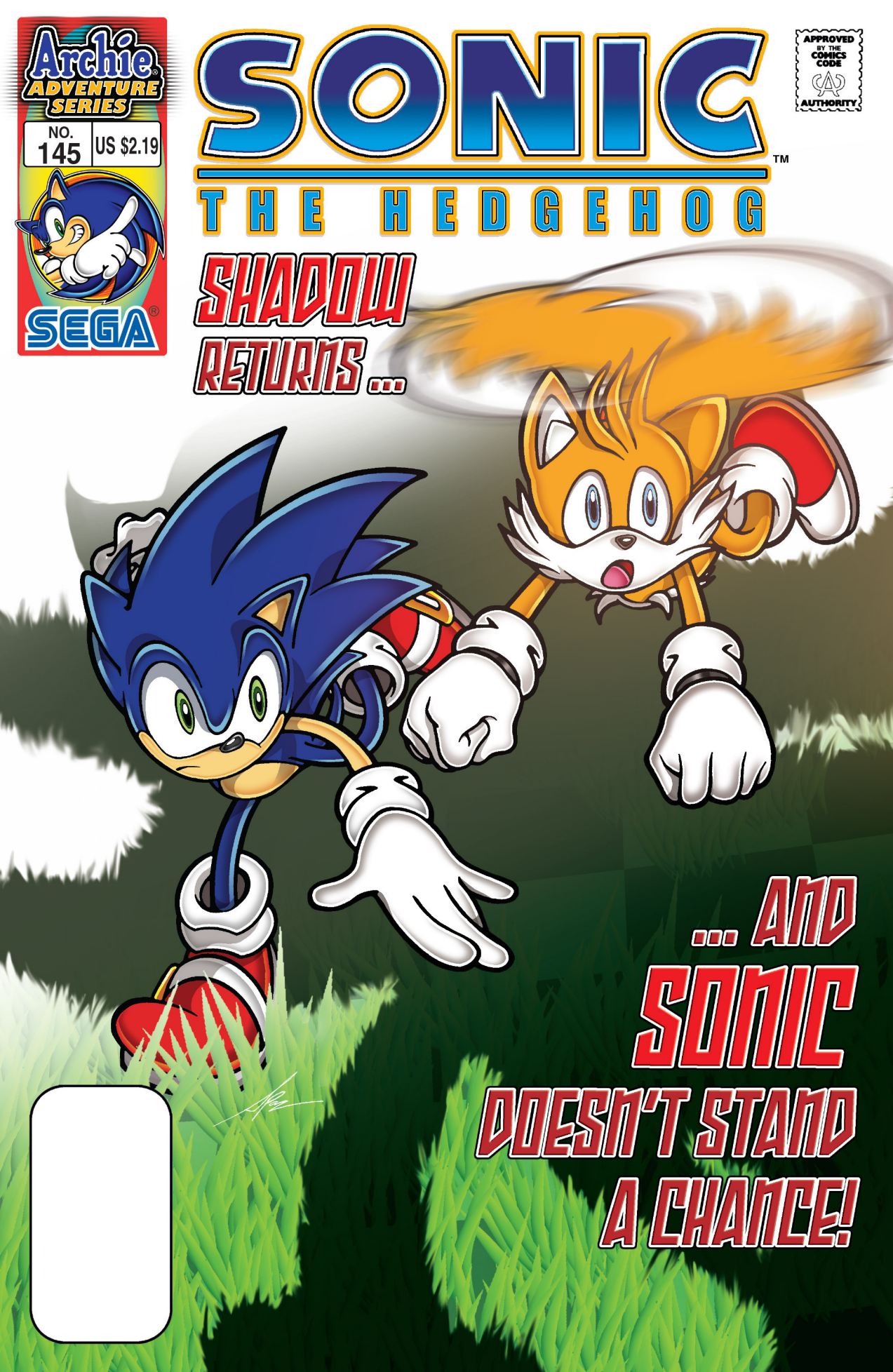

Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO. 145
US $2.19
SEGA
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SHADOW RETURNS...
...AND SONIC DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!

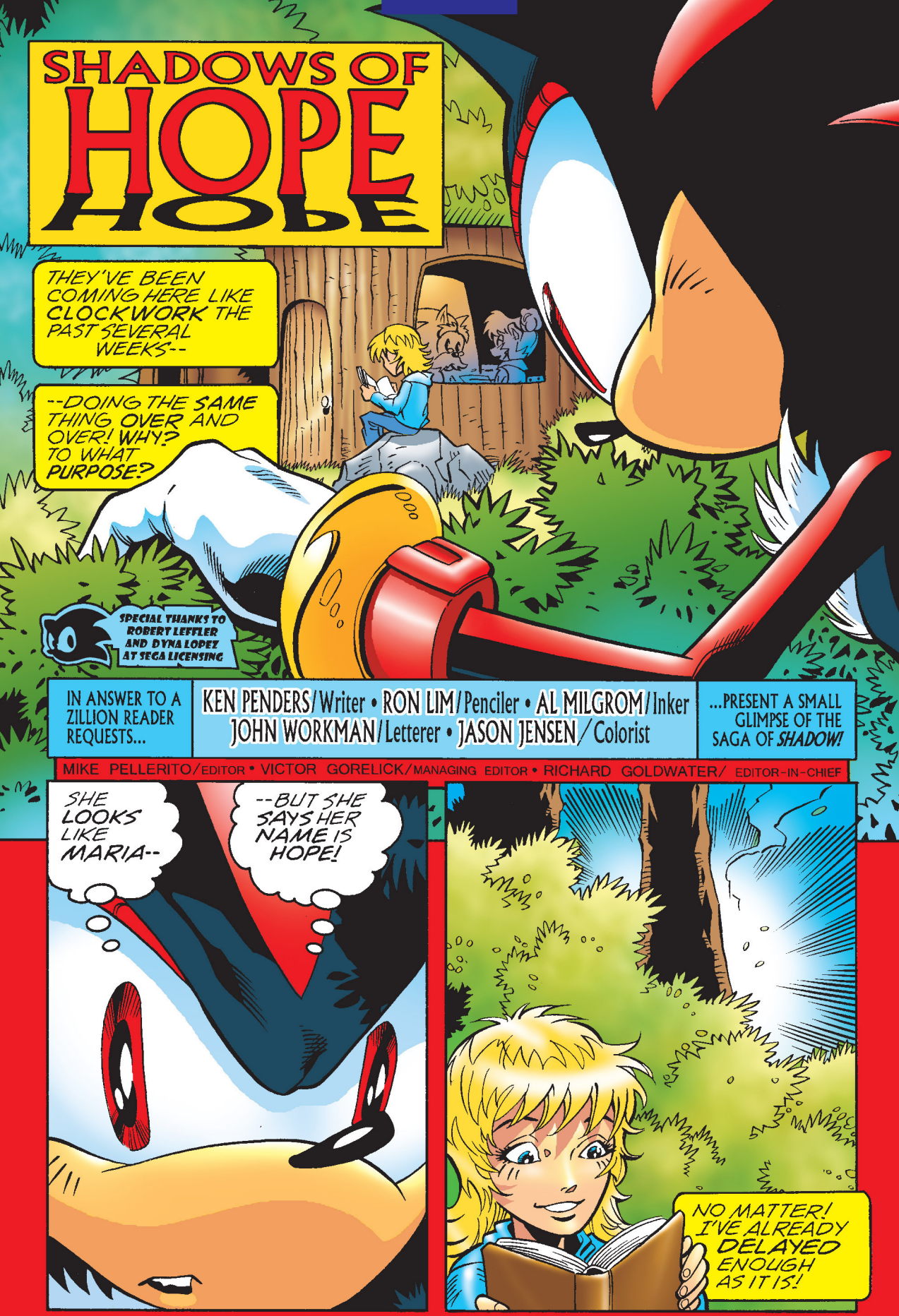
SHADOW WAS CREATED ONBOARD A LAB LOCATED IN GEOSYNCH ORBIT OVER THE PLANET MOBIUS, AND ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED A PRODUCT, A CONSTRUCTION, A WEAPON, ANYTHING BUT WHAT IT TRULY WAS, A BIOMECHANICAL LIFEFORM!

BY EVERY KNOWN DEFINITION, IT WAS SENTIENT! IT COULD THINK, REASON... AND FEEL!

SINCE THE DEATH OF ITS CREATOR SHORTLY AFTER ACTIVATION, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY QUESTIONS AND ZERO ANSWERS...

...SO FAR, THAT IS. SHADOW'S QUEST BEGINS HERE...

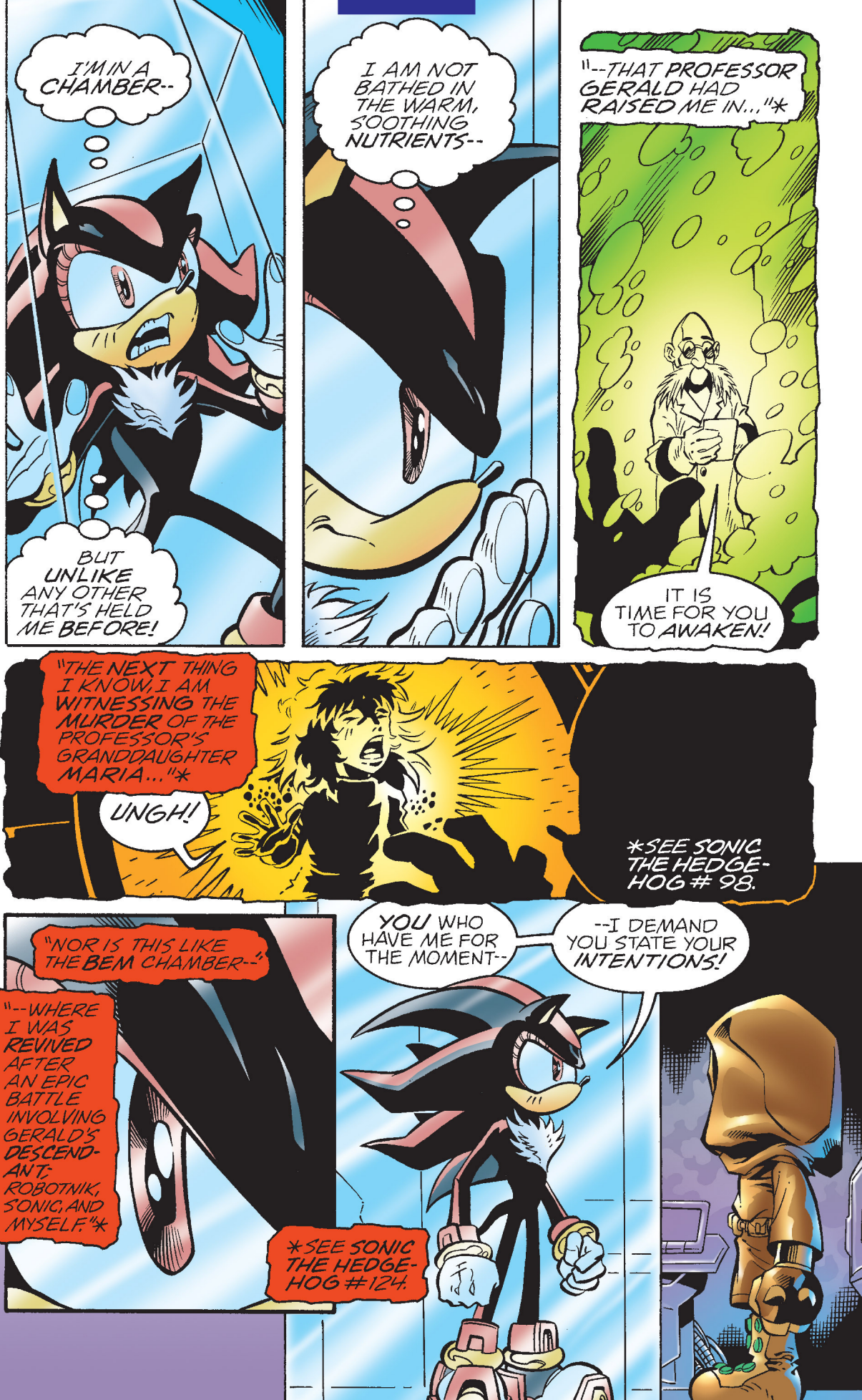
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (issn:10705090), No. 145, Mar., 2005. Published every 4 weeks, twice in March by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $2.19 in the U.S.; $2.59 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. $28.47 for 13 issues; $33.67 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2000. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2005. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 650 Townsend St., Ste. 650, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

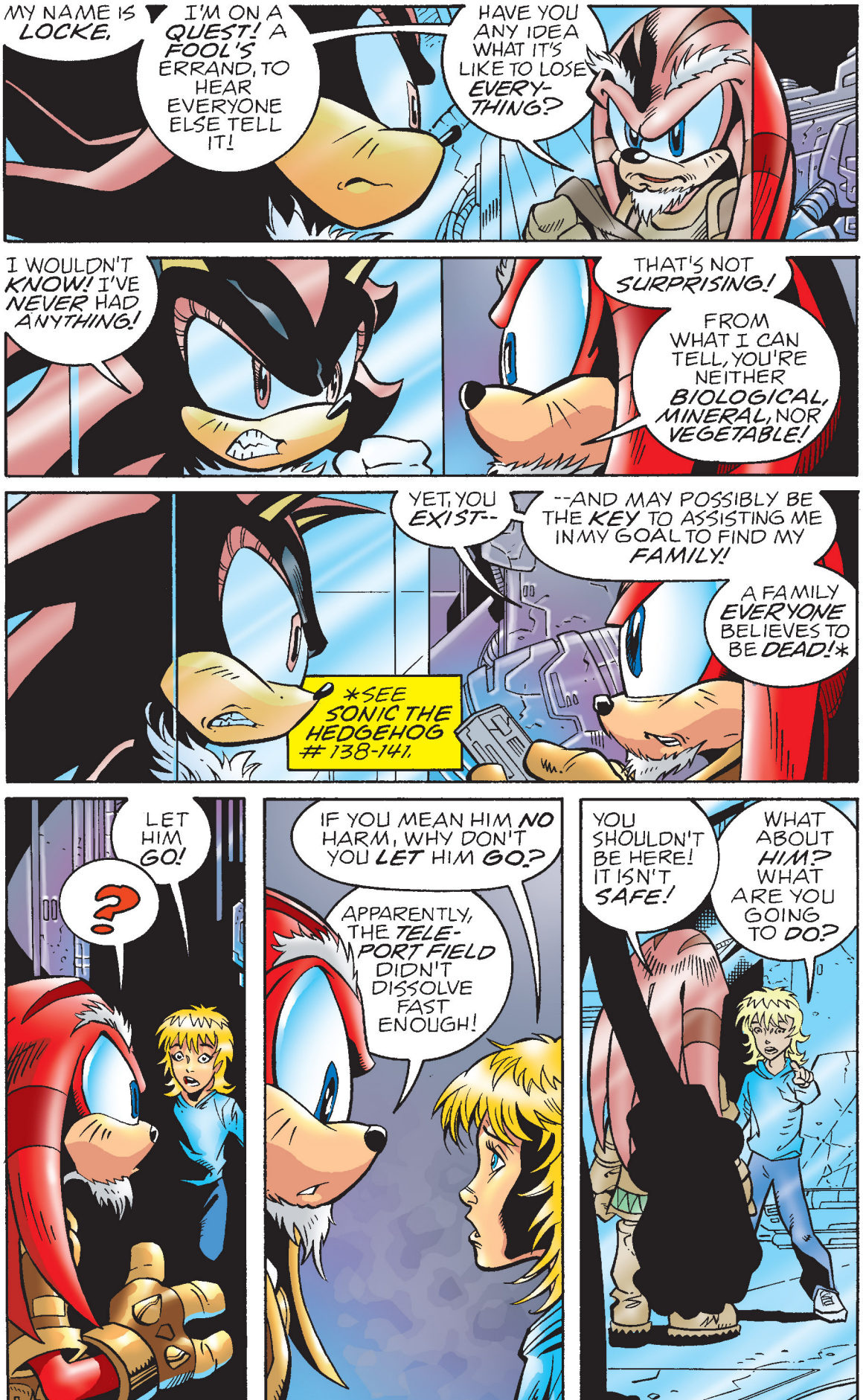

SHADOWS OF HOPE
HOBE
THEY'VE BEEN COMING HERE LIKE CLOCKWORK THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS--
--DOING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER! WHY? TO WHAT PURPOSE?
SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LEFFLER AND DYNA LOPEZ AT SEGA LICENSING
IN ANSWER TO A ZILLION READER REQUESTS...
KEN PENDERS/Writer • RON LIM/Penciler • AL MILGROM/Inker
JOHN WORKMAN/Letterer • JASON JENSEN/Colorist
...PRESENT A SMALL GLIMPSE OF THE SAGA OF SHADOW!
MIKE PELLERITO/EDITOR • VICTOR GORELICK/MANAGING EDITOR • RICHARD GOLDWATER/ EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
SHE LOOKS LIKE MARIA--
--BUT SHE SAYS HER NAME IS HOPE!
NO MATTER! I'VE ALREADY DELAYED ENOUGH AS IT IS!

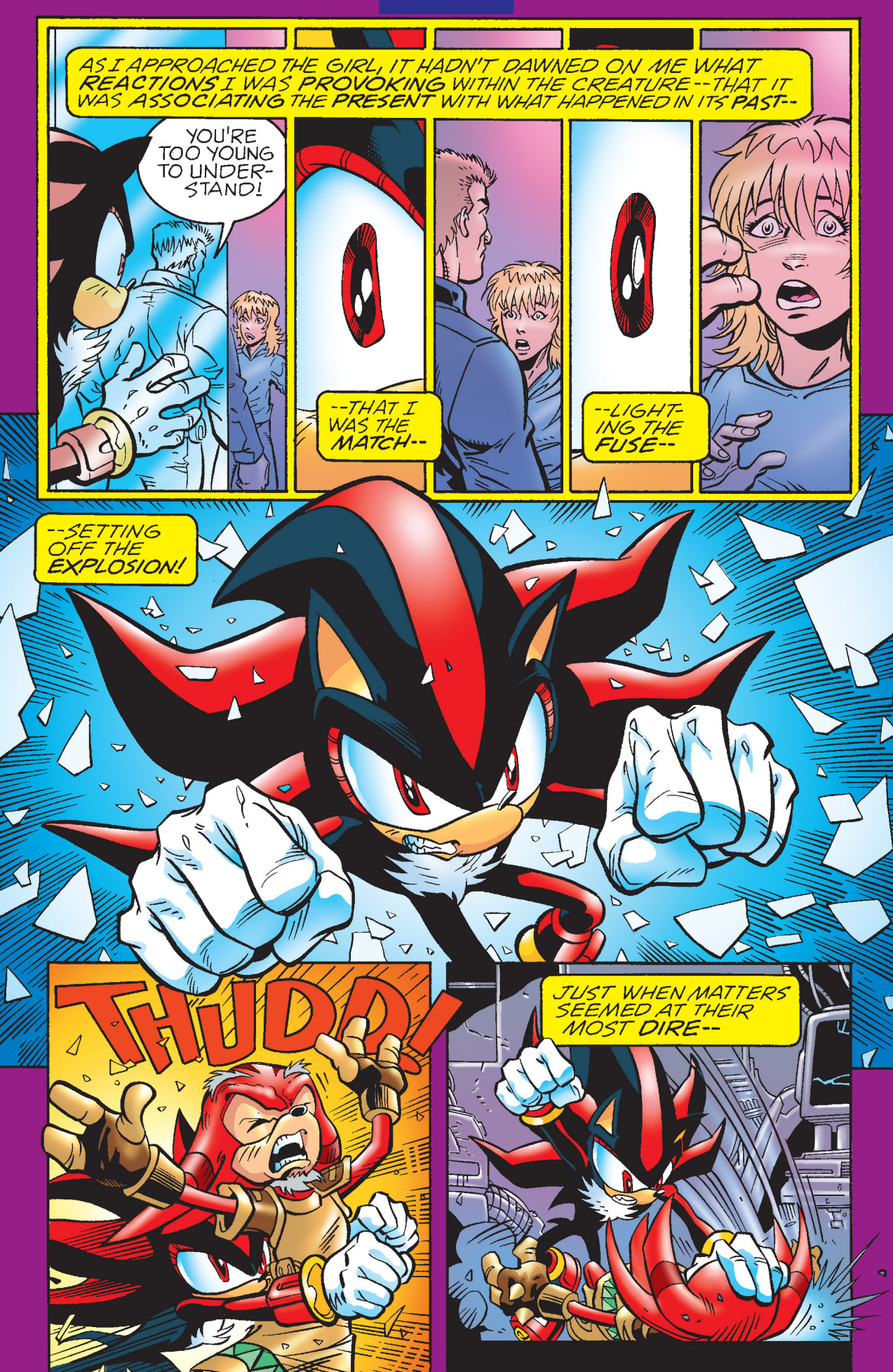
IDENTIFY YOURSELF--
--OR ELSE BE CONSIDERED A FOE!
I AM NEITHER FRIEND NOR FOE--
--JUST SOMEONE IN NEED OF YOUR ABILITIES!
IN MY DESIRE TO CONFRONT THE CREATURE, I HAD CARELESSLY OVERLOOKED THE POSSIBILITY--
--THAT I MIGHT DRAW INNOCENTS INTO THE LINE OF FIRE!
OH!
IT'S HIM!
THE CHOICE IS YOURS!
THEN I CHOOSE NOT TO BE INVOLVED WITH YOUR AFFAIRS!
I RESPECT YOUR DECISION--
THWIIIP!
--THOUGH I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER!
WHUMP!

YOU MUST BE MAD IF YOU BELIEVE FOR ONE MOMENT--
--ALL IT TAKES IS SOME STRING TO TAKE ME DOWN!
NOW THAT I KNOW AN ENEMY STANDS BEFORE ME--
--I WILL NOT HESITATE TO...
NO!
WHERE DID THEY GO?
THEY WERE JUST HERE--
--RIGHT IN THIS SPOT--
OH, WOW!
I'M HERE--
--WHEREVER THIS IS!

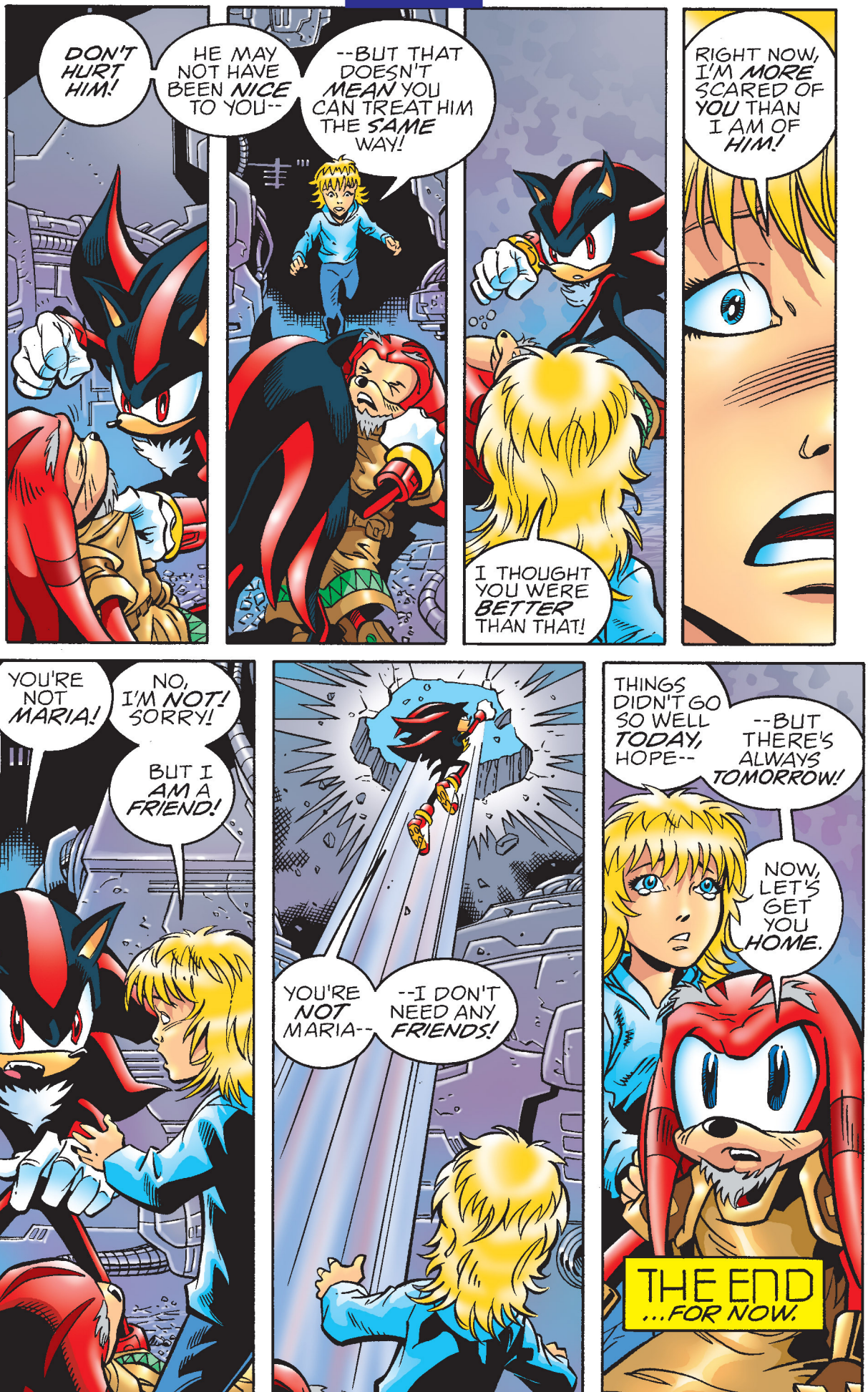
PHYSICALLY, IT IS CLEARLY MY SUPERIOR, WITH NO APPARENT WEAKNESSES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF.
ALL I HAVE IS EXPERIENCE, GUILE--
--A KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMBAT ARTS--
THUDD
CLICK
--AND THE POWER OF THE CHAOS EMERALD, CHANNELED ANY WAY YOU WANT TO SLICE IT...
HURRMMMM!


I'M IN A CHAMBER--
BUT UNLIKE ANY OTHER THAT'S HELD ME BEFORE!
I AM NOT BATHED IN THE WARM, SOOTHING NUTRIENTS--
"--THAT PROFESSOR GERALD HAD RAISED ME IN..."*
IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO AWAKEN!
"THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I AM WITNESSING THE MURDER OF THE PROFESSOR'S GRANDDAUGHTER MARIA..."*
UNGH!
*SEE SONIC THE HEDGE-HOG # 98.
"NOR IS THIS LIKE THE BEM CHAMBER--"
"--WHERE I WAS REVIVED AFTER AN EPIC BATTLE INVOLVING GERALD'S DESCEND-ANT, ROBOTNIK, SONIC, AND MYSELF."*
YOU WHO HAVE ME FOR THE MOMENT--
--I DEMAND YOU STATE YOUR INTENTIONS!
*SEE SONIC THE HEDGE-HOG #124.

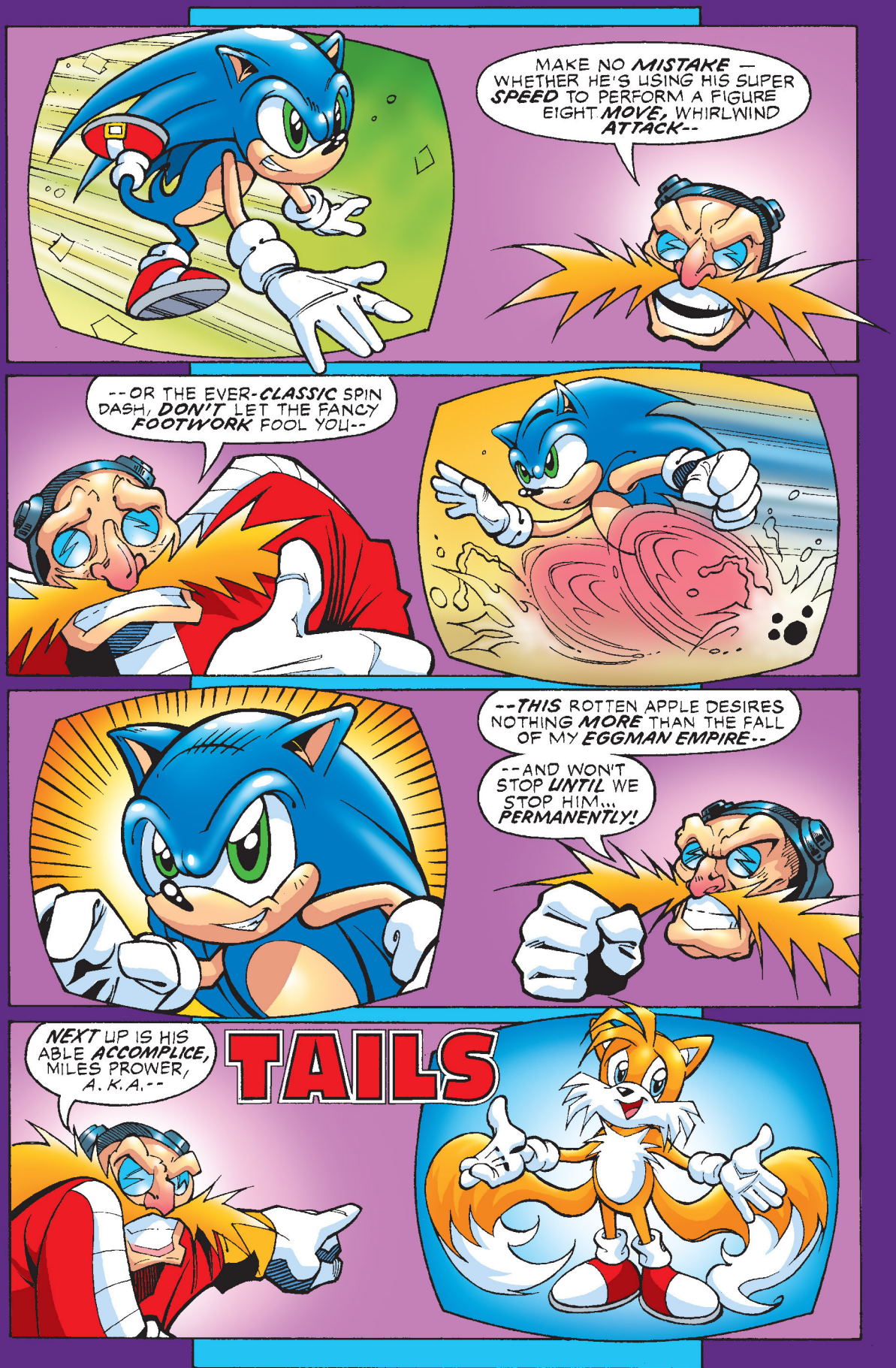

MY NAME IS LOCKE.
I'M ON A QUEST! A FOOL'S ERRAND, TO HEAR EVERYONE ELSE TELL IT!
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE EVERY-THING?
I WOULDN'T KNOW! I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING!
THAT'S NOT SURPRISING!
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, YOU'RE NEITHER BIOLOGICAL, MINERAL, NOR VEGETABLE!
YET, YOU EXIST--
--AND MAY POSSIBLY BE THE KEY TO ASSISTING ME IN MY GOAL TO FIND MY FAMILY!
A FAMILY EVERYONE BELIEVES TO BE DEAD!*
*SEE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #138-141.
LET HIM GO!
?
IF YOU MEAN HIM NO HARM, WHY DON'T YOU LET HIM GO?
APPARENTLY, THE TELE-PORT FIELD DIDN'T DISSOLVE FAST ENOUGH!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE! IT ISN'T SAFE!
WHAT ABOUT HIM? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

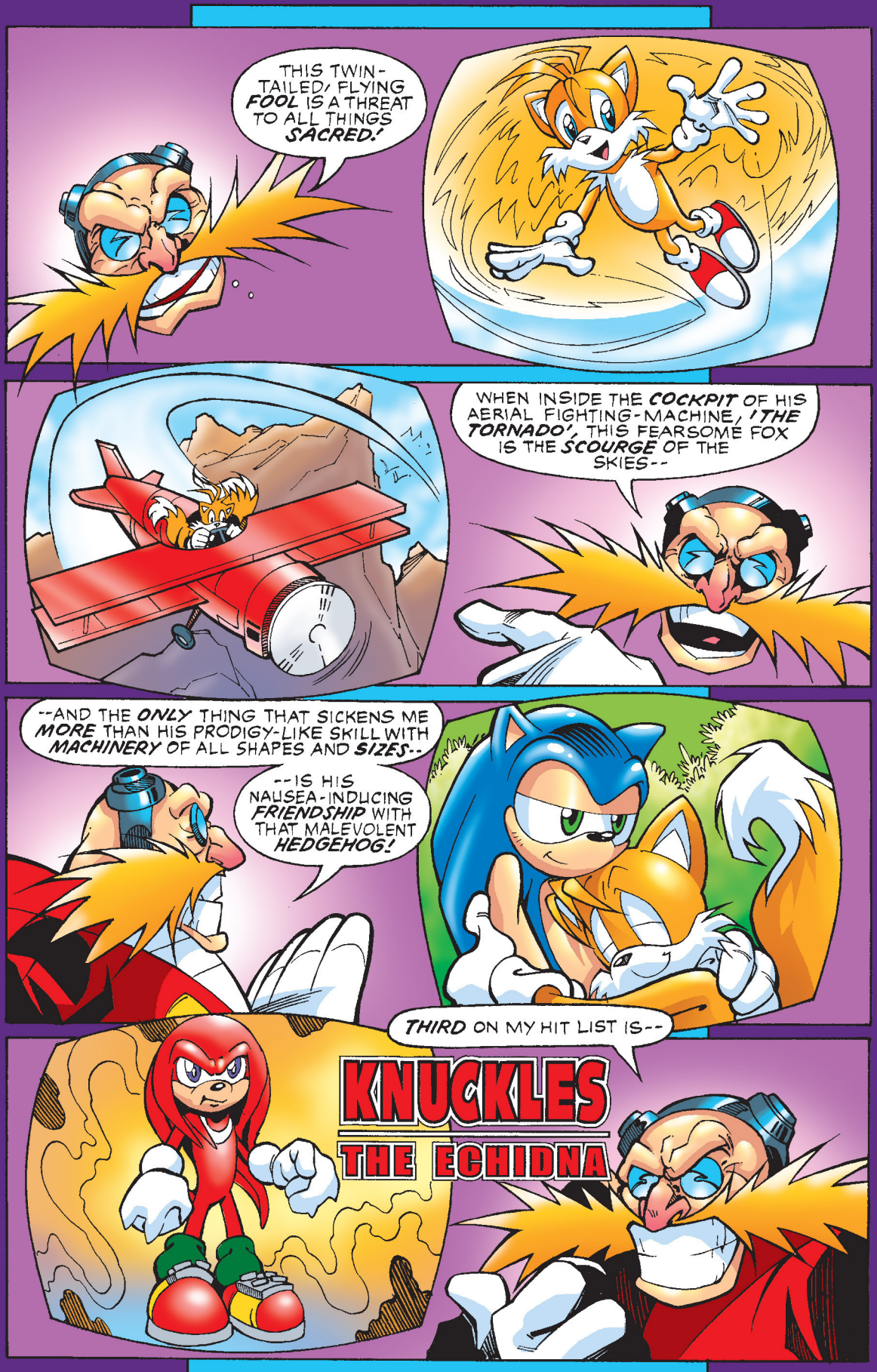

AS I APPROACHED THE GIRL, IT HADN'T DAWNED ON ME WHAT REACTIONS I WAS PROVOKING WITHIN THE CREATURE--THAT IT WAS ASSOCIATING THE PRESENT WITH WHAT HAPPENED IN ITS PAST--
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO UNDER-STAND!
--THAT I WAS THE MATCH--
--LIGHT-ING THE FUSE--
--SETTING OFF THE EXPLOSION!
THUD!
JUST WHEN MATTERS SEEMED AT THEIR MOST DIRE--

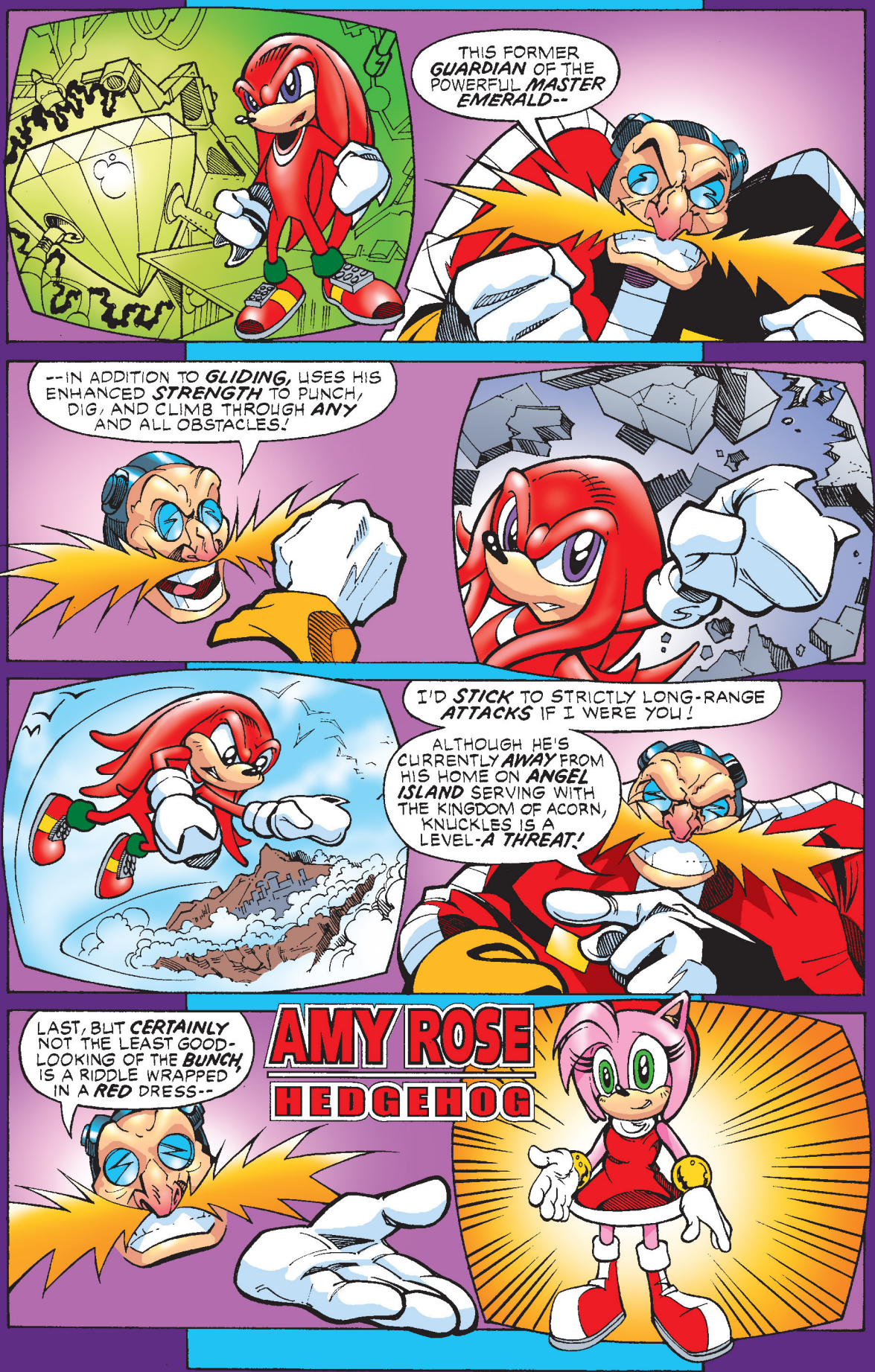
--I INFORM HIM I ALSO WIELD THE POWER CHAOS!
WHILE NOWHERE NEAR THE RANGE MY SON HAS DEMONSTRATED--
--BUT WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF WAS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT!
AS FOR THE CREATURE --WHETHER IT WAS RAGE OR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY--
--IT WAS PROVING IT HAD SOMETHING I LACKED--
--KILLER INSTINCT!


DON'T HURT HIM!
HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN NICE TO YOU--
--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN TREAT HIM THE SAME WAY!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN THAT!
RIGHT NOW, I'M MORE SCARED OF YOU THAN I AM OF HIM!
YOU'RE NOT MARIA!
NO, I'M NOT! SORRY!
BUT I AM A FRIEND!
YOU'RE NOT MARIA--
--I DON'T NEED ANY FRIENDS!
THINGS DIDN'T GO SO WELL TODAY, HOPE--
--BUT THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW!
NOW, LET'S GET YOU HOME.
THE END ...FOR NOW.

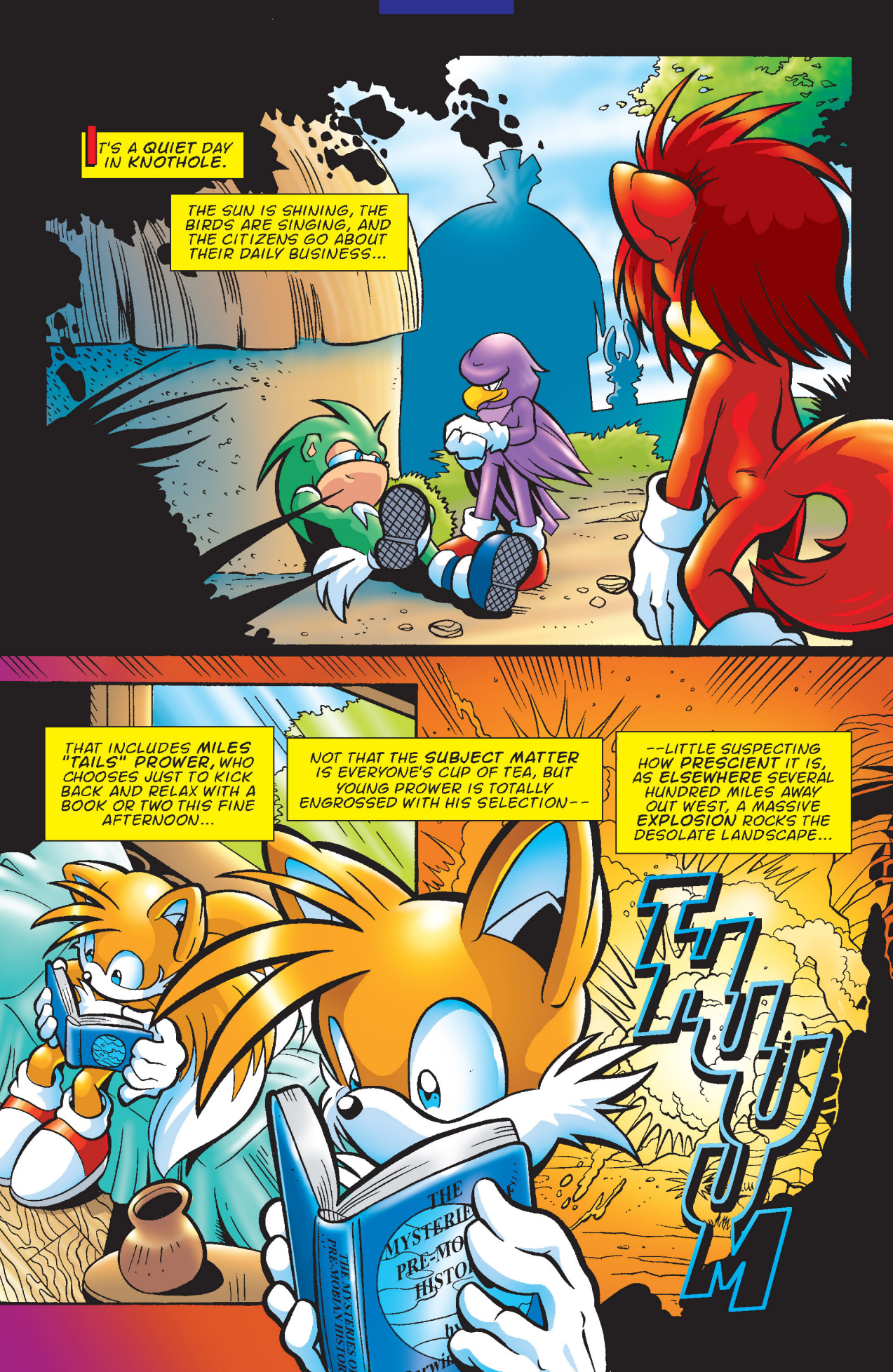
ALL RIGHT, GEAR-HEADS--
--LISTEN UP AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE FIGURE ON THE VIDEO-MONITOR! HIS NAME IS--
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
--A NOTORIOUS TROUBLE-MAKER WHO SERVES THE KINGDOM OF ACORN! I DESPISE HIS BLUE HIDE WITH EVERY OUNCE OF MY BEING--
--AND SO SHOULD YOU!
DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S
TRAINING DAY
KARL BOLLERS-STORY
AL BIGLEY-PENCILS
MICHAEL HIGGINS-INKS & LETTERS
JASON JENSEN-COLORS


MAKE NO MISTAKE — WHETHER HE'S USING HIS SUPER SPEED TO PERFORM A FIGURE EIGHT MOVE, WHIRLWIND ATTACK--
--OR THE EVER-CLASSIC SPIN DASH, DON'T LET THE FANCY FOOTWORK FOOL YOU--
--THIS ROTTEN APPLE DESIRES NOTHING MORE THAN THE FALL OF MY EGGMAN EMPIRE--
--AND WON'T STOP UNTIL WE STOP HIM... PERMANENTLY!
NEXT UP IS HIS ABLE ACCOMPLICE, MILES PROWER, A.K.A.--
TAILS


THIS TWIN-TAILED, FLYING FOOL IS A THREAT TO ALL THINGS SACRED!
WHEN INSIDE THE COCKPIT OF HIS AERIAL FIGHTING-MACHINE, 'THE TORNADO', THIS FEARSOME FOX IS THE SCOURGE OF THE SKIES--
--AND THE ONLY THING THAT SICKENS ME MORE THAN HIS PRODIGY-LIKE SKILL WITH MACHINERY OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES--
--IS HIS NAUSEA-INDUCING FRIENDSHIP WITH THAT MALEVOLENT HEDGEHOG!
THIRD ON MY HIT LIST IS--
KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA

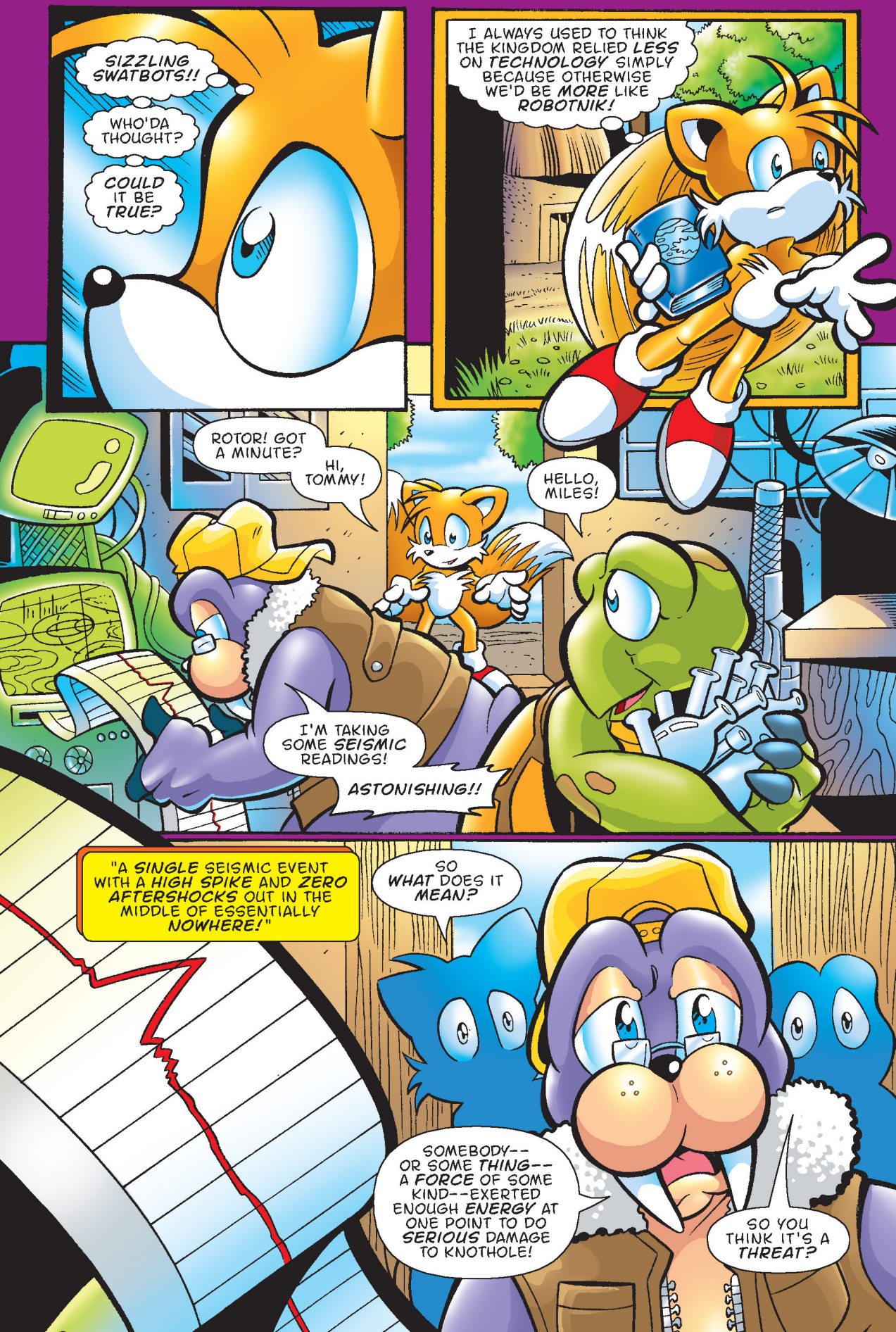

THIS FORMER GUARDIAN OF THE POWERFUL MASTER EMERALD--
--IN ADDITION TO GLIDING, USES HIS ENHANCED STRENGTH TO PUNCH, DIG, AND CLIMB THROUGH ANY AND ALL OBSTACLES!
I'D STICK TO STRICTLY LONG-RANGE ATTACKS IF I WERE YOU!
ALTHOUGH HE'S CURRENTLY AWAY FROM HIS HOME ON ANGEL ISLAND SERVING WITH THE KINGDOM OF ACORN, KNUCKLES IS A LEVEL-A THREAT!
LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT THE LEAST GOOD-LOOKING OF THE BUNCH, IS A RIDDLE WRAPPED IN A RED DRESS--
AMY ROSE
HEDGEHOG

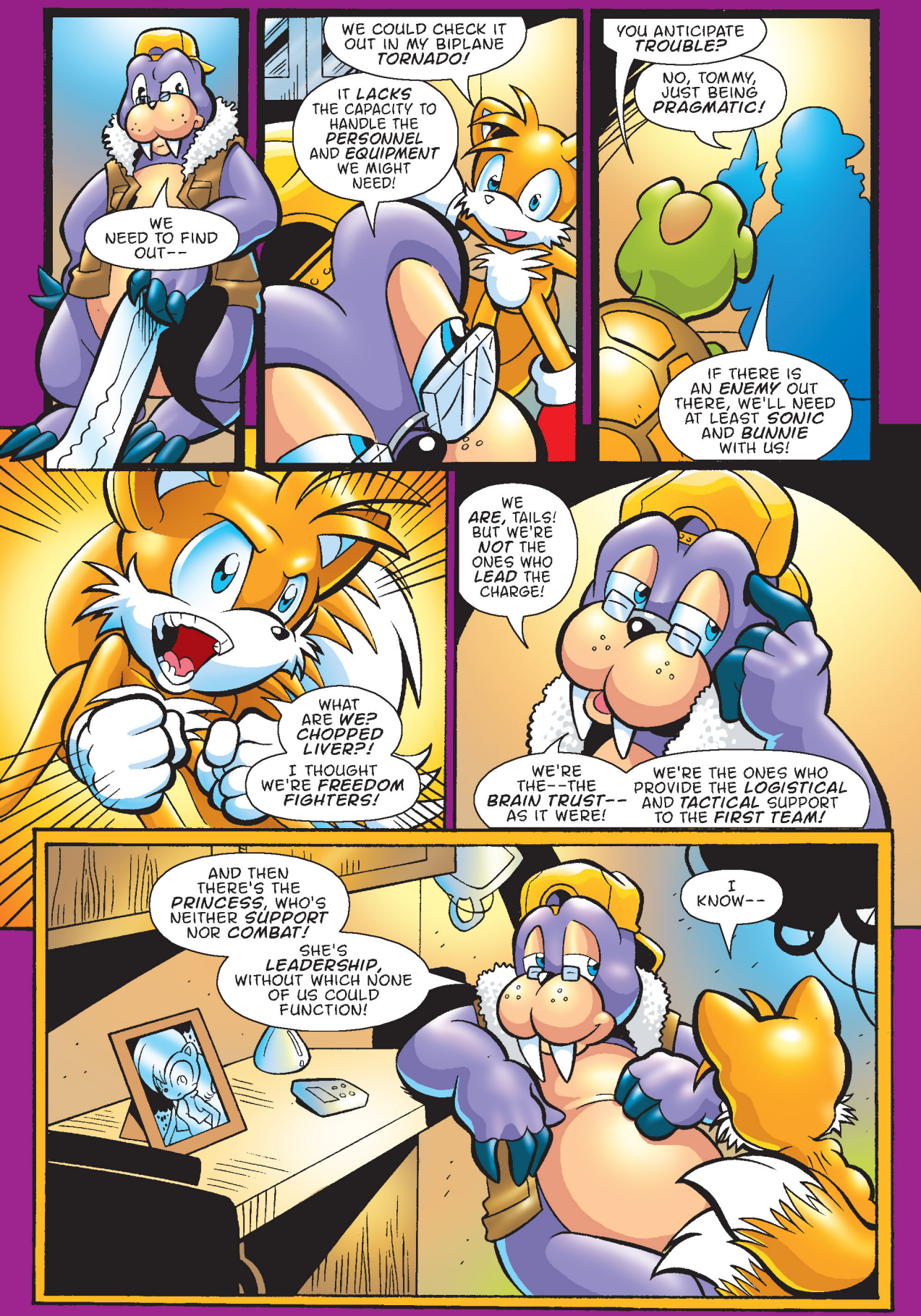
SHOES
SALE
SHE'S A CRAFTY ONE, I SAY! DON'T LET HER LOVE OF SHOPPING MALLS--
--OR HER SCHOOLGIRL INFATUATION WITH SONIC AFFECT YOUR JUDGEMENT! SHE'S EVERY BIT THE MENACE THAT HE IS--
--PLUS HER TAROT CARD DECK AND MYSTICAL PICO PICO HAMMER MAKE HER A ROSE WITH VERY DANGEROUS THORNS!
THESE VILE VERMIN ARE YOUR WORST ENEMIES AND ARE TO BE TERMINATED ON SIGHT! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
YES-DOCTOR-ROBOTNIK...
END


IT'S A QUIET DAY IN KNOTHOLE.
THE SUN IS SHINING, THE BIRDS ARE SINGING, AND THE CITIZENS GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY BUSINESS...
THAT INCLUDES MILES "TAILS" PROWER, WHO CHOOSES JUST TO KICK BACK AND RELAX WITH A BOOK OR TWO THIS FINE AFTERNOON...
NOT THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER IS EVERYONE'S CUP OF TEA, BUT YOUNG PROWER IS TOTALLY ENGROSSED WITH HIS SELECTION--
--LITTLE SUSPECTING HOW PRESCIENT IT IS, AS ELSEWHERE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES AWAY OUT WEST, A MASSIVE EXPLOSION ROCKS THE DESOLATE LANDSCAPE...
THE MYSTERIES OF PRE-MOBIAN HISTORY

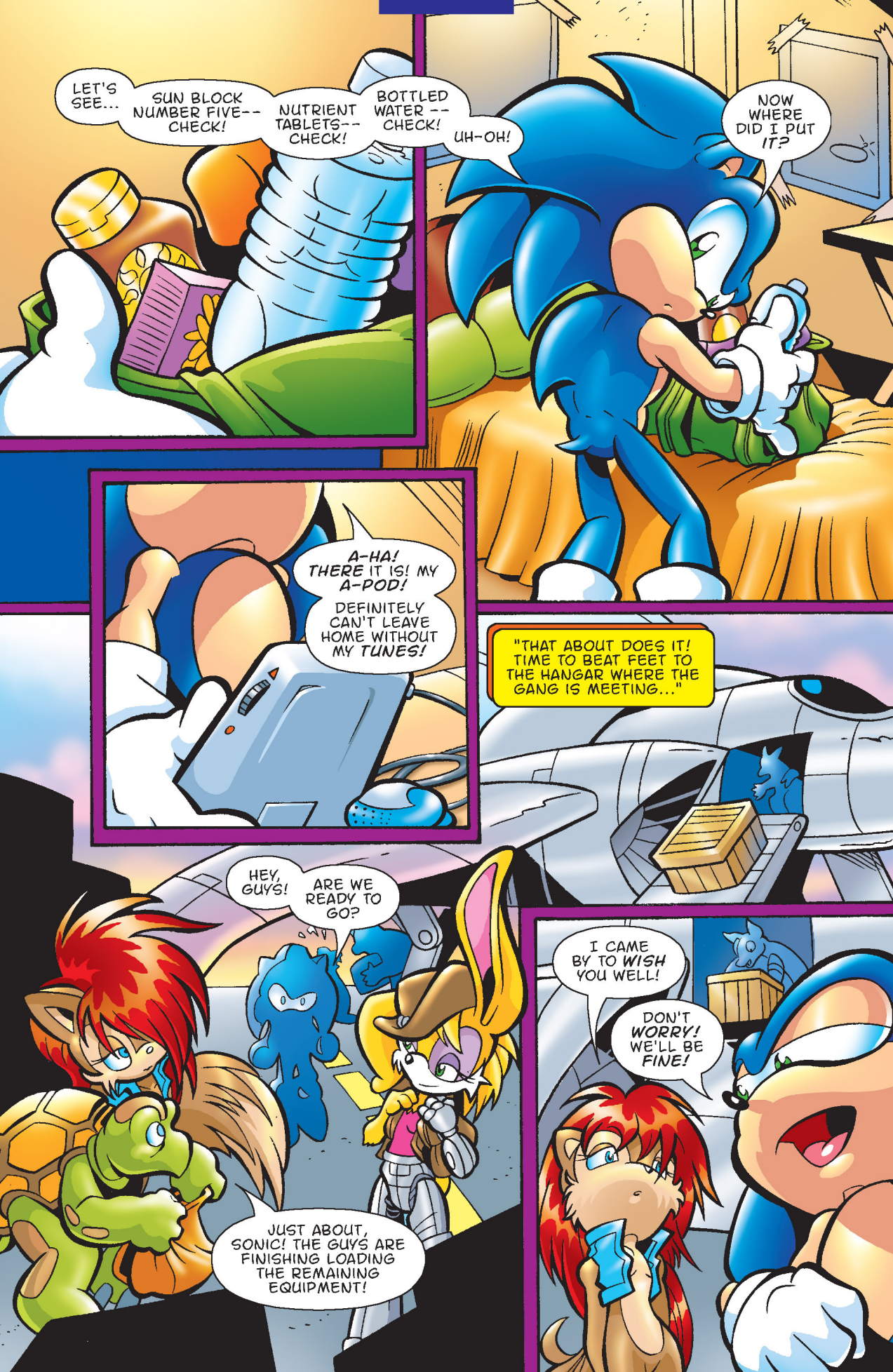
AS THE SHOCKWAVES REVERBERATE AND THE DUST ATTEMPTS TO SETTLE, BACK IN KNOTHOLE WE FIND
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
ENGAGING IN A FRIENDLY GAME OF DARTS WITH SEVERAL FRIENDS...
BET YA CAN'T EVEN HIT THE BOARD!
ASH! IT'S ALL IN FUN!
RIGHT ON MINA, BUT ASH DOES HAVE A POINT!
JUST BECAUSE SUGAH-HOG IS FAST DOESN'T MEAN HE'S ACCURATE!
In answer to a zillion reader requests--
WRITER
KEN PENDERS
ARTIST
DAWN BEST
HARBINGER
INKER
JIM AMASH
LETTERER
JEFF POWELL
COLORIST
JASON JENSEN
AND IF YOU DOUBT--
--JUST WATCH!
EGGMAN
BOINGG

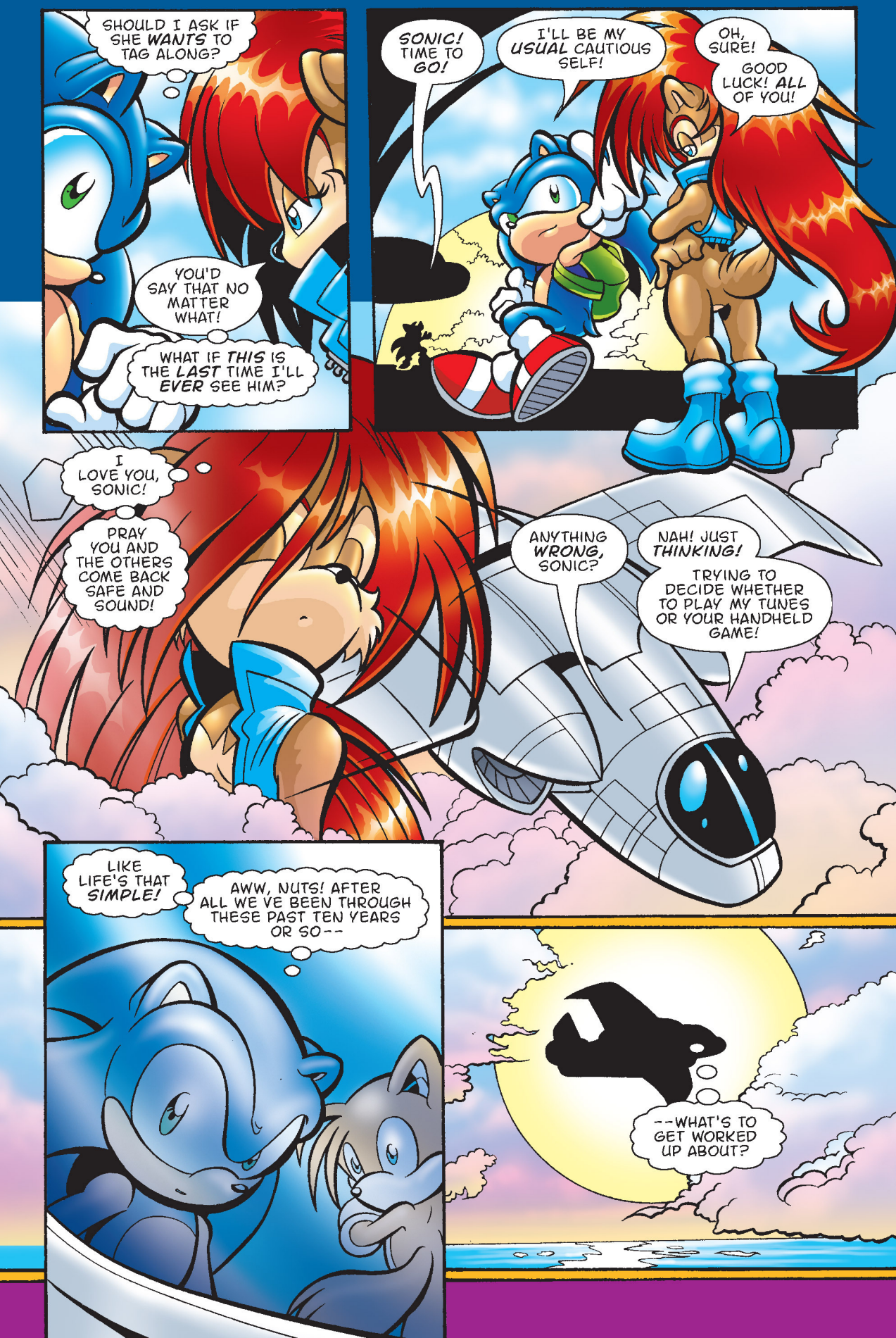
I WUZ ROBBED!!
ALRIGHT, MOUTH!
LET'S PUT UP OR SHUT UP!
YOUR TURN!
A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, AREN'T YOU?
YOU SOUND LIKE A ROBOTNIK WANNABE!
JUST WATCH AND WEEP, LEADFOOT!
YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET TRASHED!
HOOO-EEEEE!!
THE BOYS ARE STRUTTIN'?!
BIG TIME, BUNNIE!
EGGMAN
THWOK
AHEM... YOU WERE SAYING?
BEST TWO OUT OF THREE?

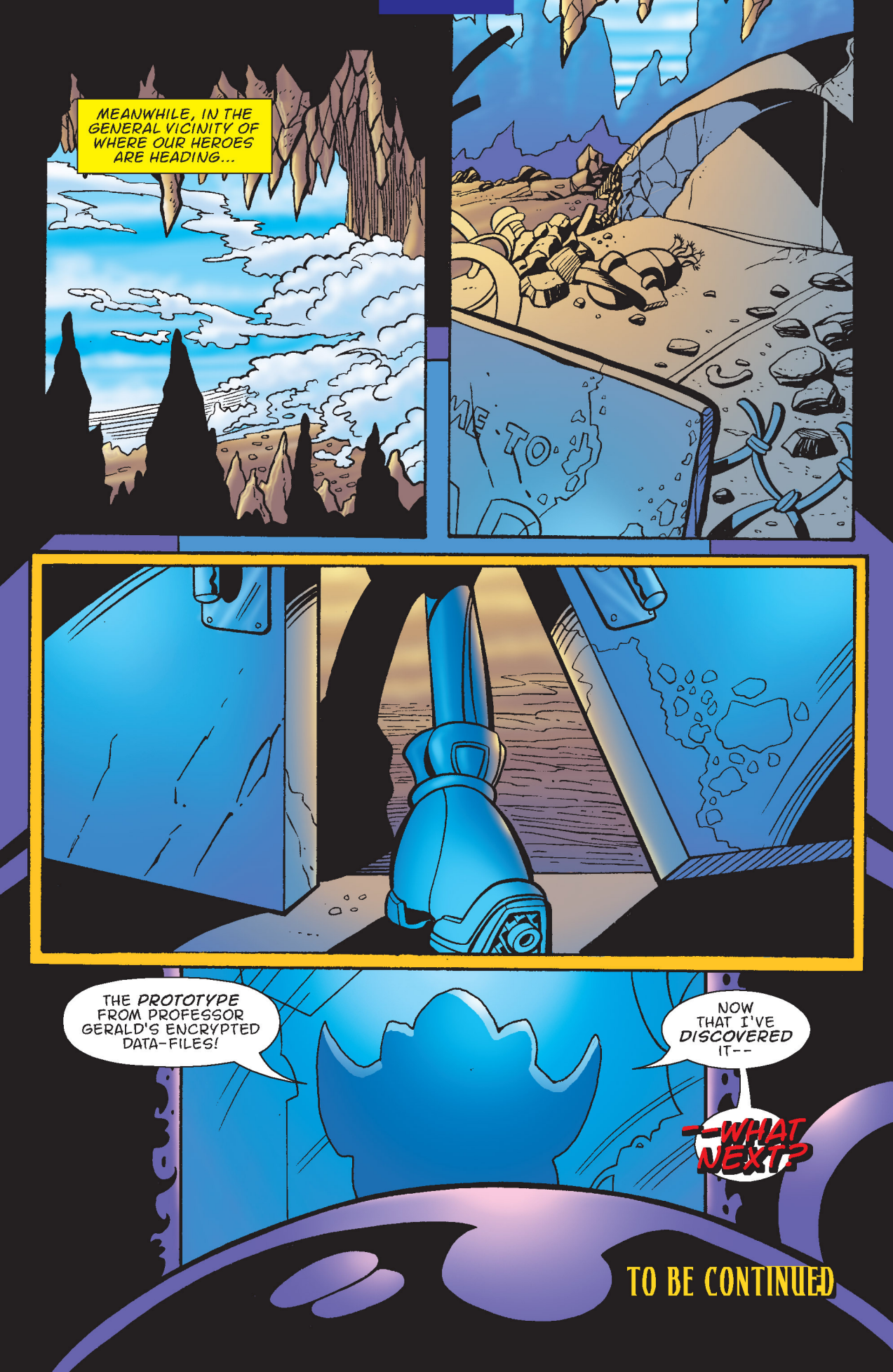

SIZZLING SWATBOTS!!
WHO'DA THOUGHT?
COULD IT BE TRUE?
I ALWAYS USED TO THINK THE KINGDOM RELIED LESS ON TECHNOLOGY SIMPLY BECAUSE OTHERWISE WE'D BE MORE LIKE ROBOTNIK!
ROTOR! GOT A MINUTE?
HI, TOMMY!
HELLO, MILES!
I'M TAKING SOME SEISMIC READINGS!
ASTONISHING!!
"A SINGLE SEISMIC EVENT WITH A HIGH SPIKE AND ZERO AFTERSHOCKS OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF ESSENTIALLY NOWHERE!"
SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
SOMEBODY--OR SOME THING--A FORCE OF SOME KIND--EXERTED ENOUGH ENERGY AT ONE POINT TO DO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO KNOTHOLE!
SO YOU THINK IT'S A THREAT?


WE NEED TO FIND OUT--
WE COULD CHECK IT OUT IN MY BIPLANE *TORNADO!*
IT *LACKS* THE CAPACITY TO HANDLE THE *PERSONNEL* AND *EQUIPMENT* WE MIGHT NEED!
YOU ANTICIPATE *TROUBLE?*
NO, TOMMY, JUST BEING *PRAGMATIC!*
IF THERE IS AN *ENEMY* OUT THERE, WE'LL NEED AT LEAST *SONIC* AND *BUNNIE* WITH US!
WHAT ARE *WE? CHOPPED LIVER?!* I THOUGHT WE'RE *FREEDOM FIGHTERS!*
WE *ARE,* TAILS! BUT WE'RE *NOT* THE ONES WHO *LEAD* THE CHARGE!
WE'RE THE--THE *BRAIN TRUST--* AS IT WERE!
WE'RE THE ONES WHO PROVIDE THE *LOGISTICAL* AND *TACTICAL* SUPPORT TO THE *FIRST TEAM!*
AND THEN THERE'S THE *PRINCESS,* WHO'S NEITHER *SUPPORT* NOR *COMBAT!*
SHE'S *LEADERSHIP,* WITHOUT WHICH NONE OF US COULD FUNCTION!
I KNOW--

"THIS ISN'T A MATTER OF HEROICS OR SELF-INTEREST, BUT WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOOD..."
I STILL THINK WE COULDA HANDLED THIS OURSELVES--
I'M SO WORKED UP OVER ROTOR--
--THAT I JUST REALIZED I DON'T KNOW WHERE SONIC IS!
ASH! WAIT! DON'T GO!
HE'S SO OBNOXIOUS, MINA!
YOU WERE BOTH EGGING EACH OTHER ON!
CORRECTION-- I DO NOW!
EVERYONE'S HERE!
WONDER WHY NO ONE INVITED ME?
EIGHT BAHL IN THE CORNER POCKET!
TAILS! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
I KNOCKED ON YOUR DOOR EARLIER AND NOBODY ANSWERED!
WAS I THAT INTO MY BOOK?
UHH... ERR... GOT ANY PLANS FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS?


LET'S SEE...
SUN BLOCK NUMBER FIVE-- CHECK!
NUTRIENT TABLETS-- CHECK!
BOTTLED WATER -- CHECK!
UH-OH!
NOW WHERE DID I PUT IT?
A-HA! THERE IT IS! MY A-POD!
DEFINITELY CAN'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT MY TUNES!
"THAT ABOUT DOES IT! TIME TO BEAT FEET TO THE HANGAR WHERE THE GANG IS MEETING..."
HEY, GUYS!
ARE WE READY TO GO?
JUST ABOUT, SONIC! THE GUYS ARE FINISHING LOADING THE REMAINING EQUIPMENT!
I CAME BY TO WISH YOU WELL!
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL BE FINE!


SHOULD I ASK IF SHE WANTS TO TAG ALONG?
YOU'D SAY THAT NO MATTER WHAT!
WHAT IF THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER SEE HIM?
SONIC! TIME TO GO!
I'LL BE MY USUAL CAUTIOUS SELF!
OH, SURE!
GOOD LUCK! ALL OF YOU!
I LOVE YOU, SONIC!
PRAY YOU AND THE OTHERS COME BACK SAFE AND SOUND!
ANYTHING WRONG, SONIC?
NAH! JUST THINKING!
TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PLAY MY TUNES OR YOUR HANDHELD GAME!
LIKE LIFE'S THAT SIMPLE!
AWW, NUTS! AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THESE PAST TEN YEARS OR SO--
--WHAT'S TO GET WORKED UP ABOUT?


MEANWHILE, IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF WHERE OUR HEROES ARE HEADING...
THE PROTOTYPE FROM PROFESSOR GERALD'S ENCRYPTED DATA-FILES!
NOW THAT I'VE DISCOVERED IT--
--WHAT NEXT?
TO BE CONTINUED

LETTERS

DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF FAN RESPONSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLY TO EACH FAN. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED LETTERS TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS ARE APPRECIATED!

Is there some secret code to get your letter in the next issue? I've read all of the letters, and this is what I've found; all of them say something funny, something about Spaz, and then that they are the #1 fan.
So here I go:
Want to hear the joke about the ceiling fan? Never mind, it's way over your head. HA HA!!! It's funny.
Spaz rocks! I'm the #1 fan.
Put this in to clarify my theory. Or to say that I'm wrong. Whichever.

-AREO THE HEDGEHOG
E-MAILED TO: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

While I find your theory interesting, clever and well thought out, it is simply not true. We base our selection on a series of mathematical factors and formulas. One such factor is how many Shameless Plugs I can fit in. Sometimes... just a coin flip.

Dear SONIC-GRAMS, I think you guys have been making the best comic series ever created. I have been a fan of your work since about issue #90. What were the names of all the other SONIC cartoons that came out?

First was SONIC THE HEDGEHOG and THE ADVENTURES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (1992) which is where a lot of faces from the comic book first showed up. Then SONIC THE HEDGEHOG THE MOVIE (1998) which is ultra cool and you can find on DVD. Then came SONIC UNDERGROUND (1999) which we did a way cool tie-in with SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #10 and of course SONIC X on the tube now. Did I mention we are going to do a new SONIC X mini-series? Oh it's gonna be sweet.

Why not take a poll with all the readers to vote for the character they want back the most.

Good idea. So get your old SONIC comics and games out and let us know who you want to see for the first time, or a character you'd like to return. If you need some classic games get the SONIC MEGA COLLECTION PLUS or some classic SONIC comics. Use the SONIC CHECKLIST in this comic.
(SHAMELESS PLUG #1)

I vote SHADOW, because we've barely ever see him. Good luck to you in the future. Can you put AMY in?

Hey! only one vote per SONIC fan!

-GUNNER SLEDGESKI
CROFTON, MD

I've been reading SONIC comics ever since I was 8 years old. (SHADOW Rocks!!!!) I know SHADOW is the ultimate life form, bio-engineered by the world famous PROFESSOR GERALD. Can you tell me more about him and why he is not featured in the comic more often?

-NINA CAFARO
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Well Nina I hope this issue has answered some of your questions. Don't miss issues 146 through 149. Shadow will be playing a major role in the comic.

Why can't you use the Chaos emeralds to roboticize SONIC'S dad?

That is because JULES (SONIC'S dad) was mortally injured before he was roboticized. So if the process was to be reversed his old body would be so weak that he could not survive.

Thank you, your comic is my birthday and Christmas gifts.

Sonic comics make great gifts! You can use the SONIC CHECKLIST to get your pals gifts!
(SHAMELESS PLUG #2)

This ending to the ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS was kind of cheap, roboticizing them and sending them into the Void (Since when have you called it the Void?)

Yeah, but the Zone of Silence sounds like they got detention or something!

Not to be rude but that was kind of cheesy. Do not say "the power of cheese."

I would never say that...I'm lactose intolerant.

M25YL:FATHER'S DAY story hit very close to home. A relative of mine passed away recently, almost the same way. Thank you for listening.

I am sorry to hear of your loss. I hope the story helped you in some way. And *thank you* for reading this comic.

-RICO FERNANDEZ
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

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Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation 1. Publication Title: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2. Publication Number: 1070-5090 3. Filing Date: October 29, 2004 4. Issue Frequency: EVERY 4 WEEKS 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 13. 6. Annual subscription Price: $ 28.47 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318 Contact Person: Fred Mausser. Telephone: 914-381-5155 (ext. 222) 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Publisher: Michael I. Silberkleit and Richard H. Goldwater, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Editor: Richard H. Goldwater, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Managing Editor: Victor Gorelick, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318 10. Owner: Full Name: Michael I. Silberkleit. Complete Mailing Address: 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Full Name: Richard H. Goldwater Complete Mailing Address: 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None. 12. Tax Status: Not Applicable 13. Publication Title: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data : # 126 - # 137 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: 15a. Total Number of Copies: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 65,144, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 68,034. 15b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 15b(1). Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 4,950, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 5,531. 15b(2). Paid in-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 0, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0 15b(3). Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 33,103. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 38,460. 15b(4). Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 0, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0. 15c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 38,053, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 43,991. 15d. Free distribution: by Mail (Samples, Complimentary and other free): 15d(1). Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 292, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 293. 15d(2). In-County as Stated on Form 3541: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 0, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0. 15d(3). Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 0, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0. 15e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 136, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 136. 15f. Total Free Distribution: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 428, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 429. 15g. Total Distribution: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 38,481, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 44,420. 15h. Copies not Distributed: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 2,536, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 3,906. 15i. Total: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 41,018, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 48,326. 15j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 98.89 %, No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 99.03 %. 16. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the # 145 issue of this publication. 17. Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Fred Mausser, Vice President/Director of Circulation

GENUS SONIC THE HEDGEHOG SONIC

SONIC COMICS

WWW.ARCHIECOMICS.COM WWW.SEGA.COM

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START

This is going to be one of the most exciting years for SONIC! We immediately kick things into high gear with the return of SHADOW in "THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UNKNOWN", which we lovingly dubbed "GBU" around the office. And as you have just read the prelude in this comic *(unless you're odd and read this page first)* you should be very juiced up!

Then, of course, right after "GBU" we have the milestone 150th issue! That is if SONIC can make it after a battle with SHADOW and friends! *(Or is it enemies?)* Don't worry, you'll know what I mean next month!

After announcing the new SONIC X mini series *(Coming Summer 2005)* and that Spaz will be doing SONIC and SONIC X covers, we have gotten a ton of fan questions! All I can tell you is I just read the SONIC X storyline for what we are planning and you will love it! There is this one scene where SONIC has to fight one of EGGMANS' robots, but what SONIC doesn't know...actually I can't tell you that. You will just have to wait and read your own issue of SONIC X!

I can tell you that we have some contests coming up! Told you it would be an exciting year.

MIKE

NEXT ISSUE:

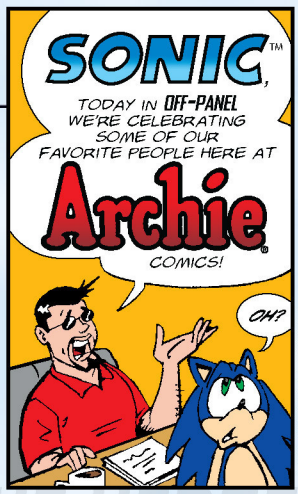
GBU: PROTOTYPE 1 of 4:
The showdown every Sonic fan has waited for... Sonic vs. Shadow! And if Shadow wasn't enough, other threats both old and new are lurking in the darkness.

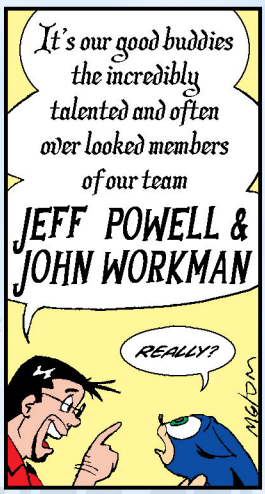
OUT OF YOUR SHELL:
Tommy returns too! But how can he fit in? What's a lonely turtle to do?

CIRCUIT ME:
When a lab accident goes wrong will N.I.C.O.L.E. leave Princess Sally trapped for a chance at life?

OFF-PANEL

Words: Mike Gallagher
Pictures: Dave Manak
Colors: Henri Ratisse




It's our good buddies the incredibly talented and often over looked members of our team
JEFF POWELL & JOHN WORKMAN
REALLY?
MIGHTY

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG SONIC THE HEDGE